



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE SPECIAL AGENTS ARREST TWO CHILD PREDATORS *El Paso men, convicted for aggravated sexual assault of a child, face deportation*

EL PASO, Texas—U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents arrested two men who recently pleaded guilty to aggravated sexual assault of a child.

In both cases, the children the men victimized were related to them.

Members of the ICE El Paso Public Safety Unit arrested Daniel Morales-Morales, 38, of the 9900 block of North Loop, and Sergio Flores-Saenz, 27, of the 10400 block of Ponderosa, Friday at their homes without incident. The arrests are part of an ongoing international initiative known as Operation Predator.

Operation Predator is a comprehensive effort aimed at those who prey on and exploit children, including human traffickers, international sex tourists, Internet pornographers, and foreign national predators whose crimes make them deportable.

Both Morales-Morales and Flores-Saenz are permanent residents, and both are registered sexual offenders. They have been placed in removal proceedings, and are in the El Paso Processing Center awaiting their immigration hearings.

According to court documents, Morales-Morales repeatedly sexually assaulted a child younger than 14 years of age in December 2003. He pleaded guilty to three counts of aggravated sexual assault of a child, and was sentenced to 10 years probation last month.

Flores-Saenz pleaded guilty to sexually assaulting two children under the age of 14 in January 2000 and October 2002. He was also sentenced to 10 years probation last month.

“Arrests such as these reflect ICE’s mission to protect children, society’s most important and vulnerable assets,” said Special Agent-in-Charge Peter J. Smith, with the ICE El Paso Office of Investigations. “Convicted felons who prey on children lose their privilege to remain in this country, so it’s a high priority for ICE to identify, arrest and when possible, deport these individuals.”

In El Paso, ICE special agents have arrested more than 80 aggravated felons since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003. The majority arrested in the El Paso area have been Mexican citizens – mostly permanent residents. Those individuals lost their immigration status after being convicted of a felony, and most have already been deported.

Nationally, ICE special agents have arrested nearly 5,200 child predators in the past 20 months.

Additional information about Operation Predator is available on the Web at: www.ice.gov. ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. Investigators staff this hotline around the clock.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.